

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02884 041733Z

64

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W  
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R 041510Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7760  
INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2884

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC, UR  
SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: PAG'S FOR 1976

STATE FOR CU/ARTS, INFO: EUR/SOV, CU/EE; USIA FOR IEE

REF: STATE 252475

1. IN RECENT MEETING WITH EMBOFF, GOSKONTSERT OFFICIALS REVIEWED THEIR DESIRES CONCERNING TYPES OF US PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS THEY WOULD LIKE TOUR USSR IN 1976. LIST IS, OF COURSE, IDEALISTIC, BUT THERE IS EVERY INDICATION GOSKONTSERT THINKING BIG AND THINKING "POPULAR," I.E. OF GROUPS WITH BROAD APPEAL AND, HENCE, WIDER EXPOSURE THAN IN PAST. THIS COINCIDES WITH CURRENT MIN CULT POLICIES, IN CONNECTION WITH DETENTE, WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL CONTINUE. FOLLOWING ARE GOSKONTSERT'S INFORMAL SUGGESTIONS FROM ABOVE-MENTIONED MEETING:

A. GOSKONTSERT PLACES HIGHEST PRIORITY ON TOUR OF ONE OF TOP US SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS IN 1976: FIRST CHOICE IS CHICAGO WITH SOLTI.

B. PROFESSIONAL MUSICA: "SOMETHING GAY, HAPPY AND VERY AMERICAN." ALSO MENTIONED WAS "LARGE, DISNEYLAND-TYPE SHOW WHICH COULD BE PUT ON IN LARGE AREANAS SUCH AS SPORTS PALACES."

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C. WITH LA SCALA SUCCESS OF 1974 BEHIND THEM, GOSKONTSERT

FEELS OPERA MOST PRESTIGIOUS CATEGORY, AND NEW YORK CITY OPERA SUGGESTED. FYI: GOSKONTSERT REPORTEDLY FLOODED THESE DAYS WITH TELEPHONE CALLS FROM MUSCOVITES WHO HAVE HEARD RUMOR METROPOLITAN OPERA COMING THIS YEAR (PRESUMABLY IN EXCHANGE FOR BOLSHOI). END FYI.

D. QUOTE LIGHT MUSIC UNQUOTE AND JAZZ GROUPS (FOR EXAMPLE ERROL GARNER TRIO) MENTIONED BY GOSKONTSERT AS INSTANT SELL-OUTS, ESPECIALLY IN WAKE OF OSCAR PETERSON EXPERIENCE.

E. CONTEMPORARY ROCK GROUP OR SINGER/SINGERS  
BACKED BY ORCHESTRA ALSO POSSIBLE IF CERTAIN CRITERIA MET.

2. EMBASSY STRONGLY ENDORSES TOUR BY TOP SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AS MAJOR EVENT IN 1976. OTHER GROUPS WE WOULD SUGGEST, IN PRIORITY ORDER:

A. CONTEMPORARY SOFT-ROCK GROUP

B. ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCETHEATER

C. TOP AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATER

D. UNIVERSITY GROUP

E. FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE SHOW

3. EMBASSY WILLING PROVIDE FULLER COMMENT ON ANY CATEGORY OR GROUP MENTIONED PARAS 1 AND 2 THIS TEL. OR ON ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS DEPT HAS. ADVISE.  
STOESSEL

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